

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 25-42 are currently pending. No claims are amended in this paper.

No new matter has been introduced by this response.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 25-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,552,833 to Henmi, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Henmi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,204,662 to Oda et al. (hereinafter, merely “Oda”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,259 to Haroun, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Haroun”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,366 to Mano et al. (hereinafter, merely “Mano”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Applicant respectfully submits that Mano is not prior art.

Mano was filed on November 12, 1996 and patented on August 11, 1998.

This application was filed on February 21, 2002, which is a continuation of US Application No 08/840,368 filed on April 29, 1997 that claimed a priority to Japanese Application PO8-132717 filed on April 30, 1996.

Applicant submits that Mano was filed after the priority date of this application. Mano was patented after the filing date of this application. Therefore, Mano is not a prior art. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of each rejection relied on Mano.

Applicant submits herewith a Certified English translation of the Japanese Application PO8-132717 filed on April 30, 1996.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application,

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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